

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

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CIEP-03 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 NIC-01 /174 W

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R 301445Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2828

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PINT AO

SUBJECT: JUNTA'S PLANS FOR ANGOLA

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY. JUNTA PRESIDENT COUTINHO IN PRESS CONFERENCE SET ASIDE QUESTION ABOUT REFERENDUM FOR ANGOLA, SAID PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT TO BE FORMED THIS WEEK WILL BE OPEN TO ALL (INCLUDING MPLA), ADDRESSED ECONOMIC SITUATION, AND ANNOUNCED DEPARTURE OF CINC FRANCO PINHEIRO WHOSE PLACE HE HAS TAKEN. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING SWEARING IN OF NEW ANGOLAN JUNTA JULY 29 (LUANDA 0634
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(NOTAL)) JUNTA PRESIDENT COUTINHO HELD PRESS CONFERENCE DURING

WHICH HE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS FROM MEDIA:

A. IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER THERE WILL BE A REFERENDUM BEFORE OR AFTER INDEPENDENCE, OR TO SET A TIMETABLE FOR EVENTS TO COME EXCEPT TO SAY THAT COALITION GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORMED THIS WEEK "IF ALL GOES WELL," ON BASIS OF CONSULTATIONS NOW UNDERWAY. GOVERNMENT WILL BE OPEN TO ALL WHO WANT A "PEACEFUL AND FREE ANGOLA." NOTHING TO KEEP MPLA OR ANYONE ELSE FROM PARTICIPATING. QUESTIONED AS TO WHETHER WHITES AND BLACKS OR ONLY BLACKS WILL FORM GOVERNMENT COUTINHO REPLIED THAT QUESTION "IS CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF NEW ANGOLA."

B. WILL THE GOVERNMENT SEEK TO REASSURE WHITE SETTLERS ABOUT THEIR FUTURE? ANSWER: FIRST, THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT YET EXIST. SECOND, THERE IS NO PLACE IN ANGOLA FOR THE FEARFUL. WILL PORTUGUESE TROOPS DEPART BEFORE OR AFTER INDEPENDENCE? ANSWER: TOO SOON TO SAY.

C. CAN MPLA ATTEND THE CONCLAVE BEING ORGANIZED TO TAKE PLACE IN LUANDA BY DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT? ANSWER: "THE MEETING IS NOT BEING ORGANIZED BY ANY MOVEMENT (AS FAR AS I KNOW) BUT BY ALL PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN ANGOLA." ANYONE WHO BELONGS TO THE "PROGRESSIVE FORCES" IN ANGOLA IS FREE TO ATTEND.

3. ADM. COUTINHO ELSEWHERE IN PRESS CONFERENCE EXPRESSED HOPE BUSINESS WOULD SOON RETURN TO NORMAL, SAID HEADQUARTERS OF COMPANIES OPERATING HERE MUST MOVE TO ANGOLA, AND INDICATED HE FAVORS CONTINUED FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

4. COUTINHO ALSO ANNOUNCED IMMINENT DEPARTURE (WE UNDERSTAND IT WAS SET FOR NIGHT OF JULY 29) OF CINC PINHEIRO, WHOSE FUNCTIONS HE HAS ASSUMED. END UNCLASSIFIED

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5. COMMENT: COUTINHO'S REMARKS ABOUT REFERENDUM AND MEMBERSHIP IN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, REFERENCES TO "PROGRESSIVE FORCES," AND TO MPLA SEEM TO FORM A PATTERN NOT INCONSISTENT WITH WHAT NEW JUNTA MEMBER SILVA CARDOSO TOLD ME JULY 22 (LUANDA 0593 (NOTAL)). FACT IS REFERENDUM IS NO LONGER PREREQUISITE TO INDEPENDENCE; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND MPLA APPEARS INCREASINGLY TO BE FAVORED BY JUNTA. (WE ARE UNAWARE OF DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT'S PLANS FOR MEETING; MDA IS EXTREME LEFTIST IF NOT PRO-COMMUNIST GROUP WHICH HAS BEEN FRONTING FOR MPLA).

6. GEN FRANCO PINHEIRO REPORTEDLY RESIGNED IN AFTERMATH OF JULY 15 VIOLENCE, WILL JOIN HIS PREDECESSOR IN EARLY RETIREMENT IN PORTUGAL. FROM OUR BRIEF ACQUAINTANCE WE FOUND HIM VERY LIBERAL

AND POSSIBLY OVERLY IDEALISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR DEMOCRACY IN
PORTUGAL AND ANGOLA. HE WAS FAR LEFT OF SILVERIO MARQUES,
BUT OBVIOUSLY TOO CONSERVATIVE FOR COUTINHO. ONE MORE HIGH
LEVEL DISMISSAL IS EXPECTED, OF POLICE COMMANDER ARMY COL.
SEGISMUNDO REVES, BECAUSE OF JULY VIOLENCE IN LUANDA.
BRIGGS

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